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Message Text

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72
ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 OIC-04 AEC-11 OMB-01

CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 H-03 NSC-10

SS-20 DRC-01 /164 W
---------- 057980
R 071815Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8588
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION BERLIN
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 16139

SHAPE FOR INTAF; VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL; GENEVA FOR CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, GW, UR
SUBJECT: MBFR: SCHEEL-GROMYKO DISCUSSION IN MOSCOW

REF: USNATO 5340

1. FONOFF MBFR DEPT BRIEFED EMBOFF NOV 6 ON SCHEEL-GROMYKO DISCUSSION OF MBFR ISSUES. BESIDES POINTS MADE IN FRG BRIEFING TO POLADS (REFTEL), FONOFF REP ALSO REPORTED ON EXCHANGE CONCERNING "ASSOCIATED MEASURES". FONOFF REP CONSIDERED SOME POSITIONS TAKEN BY GROMYKO, PARTICULARLY ON ASSOCIATED MEASURES AND
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STATIONED INDIGENOUS ISSUE, TO BE RELATIVELY FLEXIBLE

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IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT EARLY POINT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. TO SCHEEL'S EMPHASIS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF STABILIZING MEASURES, GROMYKO SAID ONE MIGHT TALK ABOUT THEM DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS IF THE WEST WOULD ADVANCE PROPOSALS THAT WOULD BE REASONABLE AND THAT WOULD NOT GO TOO FAR. ON STATIONED INDIGENOUS ISSUE, GROMYKO SAID THE RUSSIANS AGREE WITH THE FRG ON INCLUSION OF INDIGENOUS FORCES IN REDUCTION MEASURES, AND THE SEQUENCE OF REDUCTIONS IN STATIONED INDIGENOUS FORCES WAS A MATTER STILL TO BE DISCUSSED.

2. AS TO THE QUESTION OF BALANCE RAISED IN REFTEL, THE FRG CABLE REPORTED GROMYKO AS SAYING THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD REJECT ANY AND ALL COMBINATIONS WHICH SOUGHT TO IMPROVE THE SECURITY POSITION ON ONE SIDE WITH CONSEQUENT HARM TO THE SECURITY SITUATION OF THE OTHER SIDE. GROMYKO SAID THAT THE EXISTING BALANCE OF FORCES MUST BE MAINTAINED. MOSCOW DID NOT LIKE THE CONCEPT "BALANCE" BECAUSE THE SOVIETS PERCEIVE THE INTENTION BEHIND THIS CONCEPT TO ASK THE WARSAW PACT TO MAKE LARGER REDUCTIONS THAN WOULD NATO. GROMYKO CONTINUED THAT EVEN IF WE CALLED SUCH REDUCTIONS "BALANCED", THE SOVIET UNION WOULD REJECT SUCH REDUCTIONS AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE. THE GIVEN SECURITY SITUATION WILL NOT BE CHANGED. IF THE WEST INSISTS ON THAT PROPOSITION, CHANCES FOR SUCCESS ARE "GLOOMY".

3. OUR FONOFF SOURCES TELL US THAT THEY HAVE RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW SAYING THAT KVITSINSKY DID NOT PLAN TO JOIN THE SOVIET DELEGATION IMMEDIATELY BUT MIGHT COME LATER TO VIENNA "IF THE SITUATION GETS STUCK". GERMAN EMBASSY REPORT GAVE IMPRESSION, SHARED BY FONOFF, THAT SOVIETS HAVE SO FAR BEEN PROCEEDING IN BUSINESSLIKE FASHION IN VIENNA.
HILLENBRAND

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